



# MINUTES

## OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Regular Meeting

### May 17, 2022

#### MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. John Elliott, Chairman, District I  
Mr. Paul Cain, Vice Chairman, District III  
Mr. Julian Davis III, Chairman Pro Tem, District IV  
Mr. Glenn Hart, District V  
District II

Oconee County Council met at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members, County Administrator Amanda F. Brock [absent], County Attorney David Root, & Jennifer C. Adams, Clerk to Council present.

**Press:** Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, and the County Council website [[www.oconeesc.com/council](http://www.oconeesc.com/council)]. In addition, it was made available [*upon request*] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Members of the press present: Riley Morningstar / The Journal

#### **Call to Order**

Mr. Elliott called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Elliott opened the meeting reminding the public they have two opportunities to speak during Council meetings, which is during the public comment session and also during the public hearing session, if scheduled. Other than those two instances, the public should remain silent during the Council meeting. Anyone making a disturbance during the meeting will be asked to leave Council Chambers for the remainder of the meeting.

#### **Moment of Silence**

Mr. Elliott asked for a moment of silence prior to the Invocation by County Council Chaplain.

#### **Invocation by County Council Chaplain**

Mr. Root, County Council Chaplain, gave the invocation.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

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## Approval of Minutes

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, to approve the May 3, 2022 regular minutes as presented.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, to amend the May 3, 2022 regular minutes to reflect the conversation between Mr. Cain and Mr. Durham regarding School District millage.

Mr. Cain stated that keeping the millage at the same amount is not a tax increase.

Mr. Elliott added that there was a clarification in The Journal, small as it was, that Mr. Durham was incorrect in his statement.

Motion to amend May 3, 2022 regular minutes approved 4 – 0.

Amended motion approved 4 – 0.

## Attorney's Comments

Mr. Root addressed Council and the public regarding the suspension of Mr. Durham, Council District II, from office by Executive Order from the State. He clarified that this is a suspension and not a removal from office and assured all citizens within District II that Council not only represents their district but are at-large representatives as well.

Mr. Root asked for a motion to amend the agenda to remove **Ordinance 2022-14** from first reading due to the delay of related documents from the developer's attorneys.

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 4 – 0, to approve the removal of **Ordinance 2022-14** from first reading.

Mr. Root also noted that Project Buckeye was not ready for Executive Session discussions and a motion was needed to remove this item from the agenda.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 4 – 0, to approve the removal of discussion item Project Buckeye from Executive Session.

Mr. Root informed Council that additional motions were going to need to be considered in relation to **Ordinance 2022-01**, that resulted from the Special Budget Meeting that was held on May 6, 2022.

Mr. Davis stated for the record that he is not in favor of an appointment to Mr. Durham's seat, should that become the case, and stated he believes that position should always be filled by an elected citizen.

Mr. Root clarified that Mr. Durham's case was referred to SLED to avoid any conflict of interest with the County and Council out of the realm of possibilities. Likewise, the Attorney General will prosecute the action and the Governor would make any decision on appointment.

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## **Proclamations**

### **PROCLAMATION 2022-07 A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK**

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 4 – 0, to approve **Proclamation 2022-07** on first and final reading.

### **PROCLAMATION 2022-08 A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MAY AS NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH**

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 4 – 0, to approve **Proclamation 2022-08** on first and final reading.

### **PROCLAMATION 2022-09 A PROCLAMATION FOR PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL DAY**

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 4 – 0, to approve **Proclamation 2022-09** on first and final reading.

## **Public Comment Session**

*If you are not able to attend in person and you have a comment, you may submit it by contacting our Clerk to Council, Jennifer C. Adams at [jennifercadams@oconeesc.com](mailto:jennifercadams@oconeesc.com) or 864-718-1023, so that she may receive your comment and read it into the record.*

Mr. Wayne Owens addressed council with his opinion that a local news media is being used as a weapon to try and influence local elections.

## **Council Members Comments**

Mr. Hart responded to Mr. Owens concerns related to the local news media and elections.

Mr. Hart offered his opinion in relation to the proposed FY 2022/2023 County budget and stated he does not support the proposed increases and will be voting against the County Budget Ordinance 2022-01.

**Public Hearings for the Following Ordinances** *If you would like to be heard during either of the public hearings, please contact Clerk to Council Jennifer C. Adams at [jennifercadams@oconeesc.com](mailto:jennifercadams@oconeesc.com) or 864-718-1023 so that your participation by may be coordinated.*

**ORDINANCE 2022-13 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY OONEE COUNTY, CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 1.5 ACRES AND BEING A PORTION OF TAX MAP # 160-00-04-060 (“PARCEL 1”), AND AUTHORIZING THE RECEIPT OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY LUTHER L. LYLE, ET AL., CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 1.5 ACRES AND BEING A PORTION OF TAX MAP # 160-00-04-003 (“PARCEL 2”) IN EXCHANGE FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF PARCEL 1; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.**

Mr. Elliott opened the floor for Public Comment.

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Noting that no citizens signed up to address Council; Mr. Elliott opened the floor for any citizen wishing to address Council regarding this ordinance. No citizen addressed Council and no citizen submitted or presented any written comments for the record.

Mr. Elliott closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2022-13**.

**ORDINANCE 2022-01** AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR OCONEE COUNTY AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR ORDINARY COUNTY PURPOSES, FOR THE TRI-COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES PROTECTION SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE ROAD MAINTENANCE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE BRIDGE AND CULVERT CAPITAL PROJECT FUND, FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL PROJECT FUND, FOR THE PARKS, RECREATION, AND TOURISM CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND, FOR THE DEBT SERVICE FUND, FOR THE VICTIM SERVICES SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS, FOR THE CAPITAL VEHICLE / EQUIPMENT FUND, ALL IN OCONEE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2023.

Mr. Elliott opened the floor for Public Comment.

Mr. Tony Adams addressed Council with his concerns related to the current fiscal year budget and proposed FY 2022/2023 County budget.

Mr. Elliott closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2022-01**.

**ORDINANCE 2022-02** AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OCONEE COUNTY AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OCONEE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2023.

Mr. Elliott opened the floor for Public Comment.

Noting that no citizens signed up to address Council; Mr. Elliott opened the floor for any citizen wishing to address Council regarding this ordinance. No citizen addressed Council and no citizen submitted or presented any written comments for the record.

Mr. Elliott closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2022-02**.

**ORDINANCE 2022-03** AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE KEOWEE FIRE SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT AND TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR THE KEOWEE FIRE SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2023.

Mr. Elliott opened the floor for Public Comment.

Noting that no citizens signed up to address Council; Mr. Elliott opened the floor for any citizen wishing to address Council regarding this ordinance. No citizen addressed Council and no citizen submitted or

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presented any written comments for the record.

Mr. Elliott closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2022-03**.

### **Third Reading of the Following Ordinances**

None scheduled for this meeting.

### **Second Reading of the Following Ordinances**

**ORDINANCE 2022-01** AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR OCONEE COUNTY AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR ORDINARY COUNTY PURPOSES, FOR THE TRI-COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES PROTECTION SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE ROAD MAINTENANCE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE BRIDGE AND CULVERT CAPITAL PROJECT FUND, FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL PROJECT FUND, FOR THE PARKS, RECREATION, AND TOURISM CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND, FOR THE DEBT SERVICE FUND, FOR THE VICTIM SERVICES SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS, FOR THE CAPITAL VEHICLE / EQUIPMENT FUND, ALL IN OCONEE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2023.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, to approve **Ordinance 2022-01** on second reading.

Mr. Root addressed Council in detail with three amendments to consider as follows:

1. A motion to amend the agenda and **Ordinance 2022-01** to include new proviso, section 19, so that it states, "Due to the volatile petroleum market, a fuel contingency account in the Administrator's Department is required for FY 2022/2023. These funds will only be utilized when required for necessary fuel expenditure overages. Funding for the fuel contingency account will come from FY 2021/2022 utilities savings up to \$50,000.00, contingent upon year end verification of availability and FY 2021/2022 unexpended salary funds up to \$100,000.00, contingent upon year end verification of availability."

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 3 – 1 [Mr. Hart opposed], to approve the above amendment to **Ordinance 2022-01**.

2. A motion to amend the table in **Ordinance 2022-01** to reflect a reduction in the cost of living increase of 6% from \$1,920,000.00 to \$1,772,259.00.

Mr. Hart asked Mr. Root for clarification related to the above motion to amend **Ordinance 2022-01**.

Mr. Root provided clarification, stating the proposed employee raises of 6% has not changed, just a reduction of the total amount on the table within **Ordinance 2022-01**.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 3 – 1 [Mr. Hart opposed], to include the above amendment to the table within **Ordinance 2022-01**.

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3. A motion to add to the text of the table within **Ordinance 2022-01** \$64,788.00, for the fuel contingency as discussed during the last budget meeting.

Mr. Davis noted the above motion resulted from the recommendation of a fuel contingency from Mr. Durham at the last Budget Committee meeting.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 3 – 1 [Mr. Hart opposed] to include the above amendment to **Ordinance 2022-01**.

During discussion Mr. Davis addressed the following topics:

1. Essential Employee pay from ARPA funds
2. County Budget meetings related to FY 2022/2023 proposed budget
3. Recreation Funding
4. Proposed 6% employee raises
5. Customer service

Lengthy discussion followed between Council members.

**Ordinance 2022-01**, with the above three amendments, approved 3 – 1 [Mr. Hart opposed] on second reading.

**ORDINANCE 2022-02** AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OCONEE COUNTY AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OCONEE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2023.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 3 – 1 [Mr. Hart opposed], to approve **Ordinance 2022-02** on second reading.

**ORDINANCE 2022-03** AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE KEOWEE FIRE SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT AND TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR THE KEOWEE FIRE SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2023.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 4 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2022-03** on second reading.

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## **First Reading of the Following Ordinances**

**ORDINANCE 2022-14** AN ORDINANCE GRANTING CERTAIN EASEMENT AND/OR ENCROACHMENT RIGHTS TO CORE SPACES, OR ITS AFFILIATE, AT PROPERTY COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS THE POINTE WEST DEVELOPMENT.

**Ordinance 2022-14** was removed from the agenda on a recommendation by County Attorney, Mr. Root, on a motion made by Mr. Cain, seconded by Mr. Hart, and approved 4 – 0.

## **First & Final Reading for the Following Resolutions**

None scheduled for this meeting.

## **Discussion Regarding Action Items**

**Title: Avtec Radio Console for 911 Back-Up Center                      Department: Communications    Amount: \$159,805.02**

Procurement was approved by Council in Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget process.

**Budget: \$159,805.92                      Project Cost:                      \$159,805.92    Balance: \$0.00**

This purchase is for Avtec radio consoles for the Oconee County 911 Back-Up Center; located at 445 Oconee Business Parkway in Westminster, SC. A partnership with the School District of Oconee County is allowing a backup 911 center to be constructed at their campus. This backup center will be utilized in the event of primary 911 Public Service Answering Point (PSAP) failure or natural disaster which may render the law enforcement center uninhabitable. The backup center will also be utilized for tele communicator training.

The proposed radio console system is an Avtec Scout System which interfaces the 911 dispatcher to the public safety radio system. It is a computer system which connects the dispatcher to the various radios required to dispatch law enforcement, fire, rescue and EMS calls. This purchase includes 6 new console workstations, associated software, networking equipment, radio controllers, headsets and professional installation and training.

The Avtec Scout system being purchased is identical to the one in use at the main PSAP, and will become a logical extension of the existing system, forming one completely redundant radio dispatch system.

Motorola was awarded SC State Contract # 4400021163 for mobile radio (two-way) service contract for Avtec Scout products / equipment. State Contract discount is a minimum of 5% off the list price of Avtec Scout products / equipment. Motorola Solutions is offering the radio console systems at 20% off list price.

The Avtec Scout radio consoles will be purchased directly from Motorola Solutions of Atlanta, GA. Mobile Communications America of Greenville, SC is the Motorola Premier Partner for our area, they will install and provide the maintenance for the radio console system. One purchase order will be issued to Motorola Solutions for this purchase / install.

***It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve the purchase of the new 911 Back-up Center Radio Console System from Motorola Solutions of Atlanta, GA in the amount of \$159,805.02.***

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 4 – 0, to approve the purchase of the new 911 Back-up Center Radio Console System from Motorola Solutions of Atlanta, GA in the amount of \$159,805.02.

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**Title: Emergency Recording Equipment for Backup 911 Center**

**Department: Communications**

**Amount: \$65,239.65**

Procurement was approved by Council in Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget process.

**Budget: \$65,239.65 Project Cost: \$65,239.65**

**Balance: \$0.00**

This purchase is for 911 emergency recording equipment for the Oconee County 911 Back-Up Center; located at 445 Oconee Business Parkway in Westminster, SC. A partnership with the School District of Oconee County is allowing a backup 911 center to be constructed at their campus. This backup center will be utilized in the event of primary 911 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) failure or natural disaster which may render the law enforcement center uninhabitable. The backup center will also be utilized for telecommunicator training.

This proposed system is an Eventide NexLog 740 Recording System which will be used to record and monitor 911 calls. The existing recording system has reached its capacity to add any new telephone lines or radio channels. The new system is IP (Internet Protocol) based and will increase the capacity of telephone and radio lines that may be recorded. It will also have the ability to record text to 911 transmissions.

The NexLog 740 Recording System is manufactured by Eventide, who was awarded GSA Contract # GS-35F-0415V. Carolina Recording Systems of Charlotte, NC is the Eventide Certified Factory Sales and Service Center for our region.

***It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve the purchase of an Eventide 911 Recording System from Carolina Recording Systems, LLC, of Charlotte, NC, in the amount of \$65,239.65.***

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 4 – 0, to approve the purchase of an Eventide 911 Recording System from Carolina Recording Systems, LLC, of Charlotte, NC, in the amount of \$65,239.65.

**Council Committee Reports**

Budget, Finance, & Administration Committee / Mr. Elliott..... [May 3, 2022 and May 9, 2022]

Mr. Elliott provided information outlining discussions held at the May 3, 2022 and May 9, 2022 Budget, Finance, and Administration Committee meetings.

**Board & Commission Appointments**

**Building Codes Appeal Board**

1 At-Large Seat: One questionnaire on file for this seat

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 4 – 0, to appoint Mr. Rannie Bond to serve on the Building Codes Appeal Board At-Large seat.

**Arts and Historical Commission**

At-Large Seat: No questionnaire on file for this seat

**Conservation Bank Board**

1 At-Large Seat: No questionnaire on file for this seat

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**Executive Session:**

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 4 – 0, to enter into Executive Session for the following purposes, as allowed for in § 30-4-70(a) of the South Carolina Code of Laws:

*[1] Discussion regarding an Economic Development matter, Project Buckeye.*

Project Buckeye discussion removed from agenda on a motion made by Mr. Davis, approved 4 -0.

*[2] Receive legal advice and discuss contractual assignment matter related to previous economic development project.*

*[3] Receive legal advice and discuss claim against detention center.*

*[4] Discussion regarding an Economic Development matter, Project Nellie.*

Council entered into Executive Session at 7:07 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 7:27 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Cain, approved 4 – 0.

Mr. Cain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 4 – 0, to direct County Attorney to approve the claim release as discussed in regards to the detention center.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 4 – 0, to direct the County Administrator to work with the developers of Project Nellie on the prospective road improvements and return to Council as needed.

**Adjourn:**

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Jennifer C. Adams  
Clerk to Council

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